

CRATAEGUS MAGNIFLORA SARGENT

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This species was originally described by C. S. Sargent in "The Botanical Gazette" (35:383; 1903) with the notation "Borders of woods in gravelly soil; Glendon Park; collected by E. J. Hill in \* \* \* 1901." Glendon Park was the old name for River Grove, Ill., a village with a population of 4,839 on the C.M.St.P.& P. R.R. on the Des Plaines River.

Glendon Park must have been rich in Hawthorns in those early days. Sargent mentioned it as the type locality of cyanophylla and depilis and a habitat of aplomorpha, hillii and sertata. Probably a large proportion of these Hawthorns were on the plain east of the river bottom and were destroyed in the building up of River Grove.

I do not know how far those early botanists regarded Glendon Park as extending from the railroad station. River Grove station is only half a mile south of the southeast corner of the Chechupinqua Woods, one of the two known habitats of magniflora. The Chechupinqua Woods extend north from Belmont Avenue about a mile to Ill.Hiway 19 (Irving Park Rd.). Owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the area was annexed to the City of Chicago in 1958. These woods contain sixty-five species of trees, including eleven Hawthorns, and four A.F.A. champions.

I have studied these woods critically since 1936, but it was not until 1953 that I found a single specimen of magniflora. In 1957 I found six more trees in bloom, mostly in the southeast sector.

In 1958 I discovered a small colony of magniflora with tall straight trunks in Thatcher Woods. The largest tree has a circumference of 1'3", a height of 26' and a spread of 23'.

The following page shows a revised description based on the characters displayed by these additional trees.

Magniflora resembles tortilis in the number of its stamens and pistils, the color of its anthers, its calyx-lobes and its glabrate pedicels, petioles and undersurface of leaves, but its leaves are different, its flowers are larger and sparser and its filaments are longer. The large, obscurely lobed, coarsely serrate leaves are almost enough to identify it in the field.

The ranges of magniflora and tortilis are complementary; magniflora is found south of Ill.Highway 19 and tortilis ranges north of Ill.Hiway 19 into Wisconsin. Magniflora may be regarded as being vicarious in relation to tortilis; but there is no difference in the environment or barrier to warrant a phylogenic segregation of species on the theory of a common origin. Nor are the characters of magniflora intermediate between species of the same region, so that there is no good evidence of hybrid origin.

Magniflora blooms sparingly and in most years in the individual trees the flowers are confined to upper branches. The flowers are usually 22-28 mm. wide, whereas the width in Sargent's description was given as 25-30 mm., but they are still among the largest of the Hawthorn flowers. Its nutlets are usually 4 or 5, sometimes 3. Where the number is

3, the backs are marked with abrupt high irregular ridges separated by deep grooves.

Magniflora is one of the best of the Hawthorns because of its tall straight trunk, well balanced crown, large flowers and delectable haws.

G. N. Jones in his tragically slipshod treatment of Crataegus in his "Vascular Plants of Illinois" credits Palmer with sending him his specimens of magniflora, whereas the species is native only in Illinois and he could have gotten native material by diligent exploration or contact with informed persons.

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CORRECTED DESCRIPTION OF CRATAEGUS MAGNIFLORA SARGENT  
AMENDING P. 44 OF KENDALL LAUGHLIN'S "MANUAL OF THE HAW-  
THORNS OF COOK AND DU PAGE COUNTIES"

Bark dull grayish-brown, thin, separating into narrow vertical plates. Branchlets glabrous, flexuous, rather crowded, red, red-green or reddish brown with scattered gray lenticels, becoming brown, reddish brown or gray-brown the following year. Winter buds 2-2.5 mm. long, dark red. Spines on branches 2-5.2 cm. long, stout, curved, dark chestnut-brown, brown, red-brown, bright red, or dull slate-colored or cinereous.

Leaves ovate-orbicular, oblong-ovate or oval, rounded or slightly subcordate at the base, acute at the apex, with 5-7 pairs of obscure lobes, coarsely and irregularly serrate, 6-9.8 cm. long, 4.7-7.6 cm. wide, thin, dull dark yellowish green and scabridulous above, slightly paler and glabrate beneath, with a slender midrib and 5-7 pairs of nearly straight primary veins.

Petioles 2-5.2 cm. long, slender, subterete, shallowly grooved, rarely slightly glandular, glabrate, red on the upper side when young.

Flowers blooming from April 28 to May 19 on long glabrous or glabrate pedicels in 5-9-flowered lax simple or compound corymbs, (19-)22-28 mm. wide, flattish or saucer-shaped.

(17-)20 stamens with filaments 4-8.5 mm. long and dark reddish purple anthers.

3-5 pistils.

Calyx-lobes lanceolate, glandular-serrulate, appressed in anthesis.

Haws ripening September 10-20, in few-fruited drooping corymbs, slightly obovoid, subglobose or short-oblong, flattened at the ends and slightly depressed at the base, glabrous, lustrous scarlet with very small scattered green dots, often blotched with green at the apex, 14-20 mm. long, 14-18.5 mm. wide, with thick juicy acid yellow flesh. Calyx sessile with a broad obconic tube, bordered by the persistent bases of the filaments and spreading lobes.

Nutlets usually 4 or 5, sometimes 3, (6.5-)8-9.5 mm. long, 4-6 mm. wide, subpyriform with an abrupt hump beyond the middle on the back, acute at the other end, grooved in the case of haws with 3 or 4 nutlets, with plane or more often convex ventral faces.